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What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A port-sharing system comprising:
2 a computing resource having a port;
3 a monitoring interface to said computing resource available via said
4 port;
5 a plurality of end user devices to be connected to said monitoring
6 interface; and
7 a liaison interface to handle communications from said plurality of
8 end user devices that are intended for said monitoring interface and to
9 handle communications from said monitoring interface that correspond to
10 said communications from said end user devices, respectively.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein:
2 said port is a first port;
3 said liaison interface has a second port;
4 said liaison interface is operable to connect to each of said plurality
5 of end user devices via said second port while being connected to said
6 computing resource via said first port.
- 1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein said liaison interface includes at
2 least one handling daemon.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein said liaison interface is operable to
2 give each user of one of said plurality of end user devices the impression of
3 being directly connected to said computing resource.
- 1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the monitoring system is operable
2 to retrieve information representing one or more parameters that are
3 indicative of the operational state of the computing resource.

3 and wherein said plurality of end user devices is operable as a terminal on
4 said network.

1 10. A liaison apparatus between a plurality of end user devices and a
2 monitoring interface for a computing resource having a port assigned to the
3 monitoring interface, the apparatus comprising:

4 a front input/output (I/O) unit to communicate with said plurality of
5 end user devices;

6 a back I/O unit to connect to said port of said computing resource;
7 and

8 a liaison unit to handle communications from said plurality of end
9 user devices via said front I/O unit that are intended for said monitoring
10 interface and to handle communications from said monitoring interface via
11 said back I/O unit that correspond to said communications from said end
12 user devices, respectively.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein:

2 said back I/O unit has a second port; and

3 said front I/O unit is operable to connect to each of said plurality of
4 end user devices via said second port while said back I/O unit is connected
5 to said computing resource via said first port.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said liaison unit is operable to
2 give each user of one of said plurality of end user devices is given the
3 impression of being directly connected to said computing resource.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the monitoring interface is
2 operable to retrieve information representing one or more parameters that
3 are indicative of the operational state of the computing resource.

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1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said computing resource is a
2 mobile switching center (MSC) and said monitoring interface is a status
3 display page (SDP) interface.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said back I/O unit, said front
2 I/O unit and said liaison unit take the form of a daemon running on a
3 network server, wherein the network is connectable to said computing
4 resource.

1 16. A liaison method between a plurality of end user devices and a
2 monitoring interface for a computing resource having a port assigned to the
3 monitoring interface, the method comprising:

4 connecting to said port of said computing resource;
5 connecting to said plurality of end user devices; and
6 handling communications from said plurality of end user devices
7 that are intended for said monitoring interface and handling
8 communications from said monitoring interface that correspond to said
9 communications from said end user devices, respectively.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein:
2 said port is a first port; and
3 connections to each of said plurality of end user devices are made
4 via a second port of an intermediary processor while said intermediary
5 processor is connected to said computing resource via said first port.

1 18. The method of claim 16, wherein each user of one of said plurality
2 of end user devices is given the impression of being directly connected to
3 said computing resource.

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